Local Jurisdiction Application for Public Safety Interoperable Communications Grant Funds

July 15, 2008

Project Applications

Local Project Applications are due to Iowa Statewide Interoperable Communications System Board by **August 22, 2008**. Any applications received after this date will be returned, unopened, to the submitter.

Applications shall be submitted to:

> Capt. Todd Misel, Chairman
> Iowa Statewide Interoperable Communications System Board
> Iowa Department of Public Safety
> 215 East 7th Street
> Des Moines, IA 50319

Prospective applicants should first review the"*Local Jurisdiction Application Guide for Public Safety Interoperable Communications Grant Funds*" that accompanied this application.

Prospective applicants are invited to submit written questions and/or requests for interpretation or clarification concerning this application process. The Board must receive questions and/or requests for interpretation or clarification no later than July 25, 2008. Questions should be delivered to Chairman Misel at the address listed above.

The Board will issue a written response to all questions to all potential applicants no later than July 31, 2008.

All inquiries to this application package shall be in writing to Chairman Misel at the address listed above.

The application shall be typewritten and follow the application format of this package.

The names of applicants who submitted applications within the time frame will be immediately announced after the submittal date to any person who requests the information. The announcement of the names does not indicate that the application is technically compliant and therefore is accepted for evaluation.

Any request for confidential treatment of information must be include in a cover letter with the application and must enumerate the specific grounds in Iowa Code Chapter 22 or other applicable law which support treatment of the material as confidential and must indicate why disclosure is in the best interest of the public. Any documents submitted which contain confidential information must be marked on the outside as containing confidential information, and each page which contains confidential information must be marked as containing confidential information. In addition to marking the material as confidential, the applicant

must submit one copy of the application marked "Public Copy" from which the confidential information has been excised.

The cost of preparation and delivery of the application is the sole responsibility of the applicant.

An application will be rejected outright and not evaluated for any of the following reasons:

- ·1 ***Any part of the application is incomplete.***
- ·2 ***The application does not follow the specified format.***
- ·3 ***The local match does not meet or exceed 20% of the total project cost.***
- ·4 ***The project described in the application does not meet one or more of the PSIC grant guidelines.***
- ·5 ***The project completion date is beyond September 30, 2010.***

I. Investment Heading

Investment Name:
> **Central Iowa Interoperable Improvement Project (CIIIP)**

Is this a multi-jurisdictional or statewide project?
> **Multi-jurisdictional**

List the jurisdictions served by this project:
> **CITIES/COMMUNITIES:**

Albia
Barnes City
Baxter
Bloomfield
Brooklyn
Bussey
Chariton
Colfax
Columbia
Deep River
Derby
Drakesville
Floris
Fremont
Grinnell
Guernsey
Hartwick
Harvey
Holiday Lake
Ira
Killduff
Knoxville
Kellogg
Lake Ponderosa
Leighton
Lovilia
Lucas
Lynnville
Malcolm
Melcher-Dallas
Melrose
Mingo
Monroe
Montezuma
New Sharon
Newton
Oskaloosa
Oakland Acres
Otley
Pella
Peoria
Pleasantville
Prairie City
Pulaski
Reasnor
Russell

Searsboro
Sully
Tracy
Valaria
Williamson

TOWNSHIPS:
Cedar Township (Mahaska)
Clay Township (Marion)
Indiana Township (Marion)

COUNTIES:
Davis
Jasper
Lucas
Mahaska
Marion
Monroe
Poweshiek

Is this a multi-disciplinary project?
YES

List the disciplines served by this project:
911 Dispatch/Communications
City Government
City Maintenance
County Engineer
County Conservation
EMS/1st Responders
Fire
Law Enforcement
Public School Security
Road Side Management

Application Contact Point:
Edward L. Roach CIIIP Project Administrator who is Executive Director & Secretary, Jasper County 911 Service Board, 2300 Law Center Drive, Newton, Iowa 50208. Telephone number 641-792-5912 at dispatch, Cell phone 641-521-3092. Email at "edroach@jaspersheriff.org".

II.A. Project Narrative

Describe the proposed Investment
- Interoperability problem(s)
- Proposed solution(s)
- Expected outcome(s)
- Partners and end users that will be involved
- Plans to evaluate the Investment

Description of the Project:

Recognizing the challenges posed by public safety communication interoperability, a consortium of multi-jurisdictional, multi-disciplinary agencies have worked together to identify their jurisdiction's current interoperability capabilities, identify strengths and gaps and develop a plan to address any shortcomings. To solve some of our interoperability concerns, we request funding for the following investment;

There are communication gaps between local agencies, incidents commands, and state agencies for disaster response. Participants request the purchase of a Local / Wide Area IP Based Gateway for PSAPS. This equipment can provide local interoperability, wide area interoperability and provide a connection to existing and future state radio system(s). One gateway is requested for each county plus one for Pella PSAP. Evaluation will occur during testing and exercising.

One agency has an old base radio system that does not allow for expansion of channels or positions and no way to integrate new technologies. Additionally, repairs and replacement of older systems is arduous and cost prohibitive. If the system fails, dispatch/emergency paging will rely on backup equipment with less range requiring more dispatcher intervention to operate. A new base radio system will eliminate each problem, enable greater redundancy, allow easier use and faster multi-tasking during multi-disciplinary events. Evaluation would continue daily as the system is expanded or modified.

A few storm sirens are requested. Small communities either want one or wish to replace the one they have. Replacement is requested for sirens that are very, very old. Weather radios serve their purpose but a new siren will have important public address capability and more dependability. The PSAP would also have direct access to capabilities on the new siren. Evaluation would continue as tests are done and regularly scheduled tests are done to maintain capability.

Spectrum efficiency (making licensed frequencies narrower) is mandated for all radios by January 1, 2013. As other agencies meet the mandate, there could be communication degradation as one agency complies, the next one delays, the next one complies and so forth. Participants request to move forward now. Grant funding will improve interoperability by allowing these participants to coordinate the mandate inside each county and move forward in an orderly fashion rather than randomly. Agencies that will participate are:

In Davis County:
      Bloomfield Fire & Police
      Davis County Sheriff, E 911 & Hospital
      Drakesville Fire
      Floris Fire
      Pulaski Fire

In Jasper County:
      Baxter Ambulance, Fire & Police
      IRA City of
      Jasper County E 911 & Sheriff
      Kellogg City of, Fire & Police

Killduff City of
Lynnville Fire
Mingo Fire
Monroe Fire & Police
Newton Fire, Police, Hazmat & E.O.C.
Newton Skiff Medical Center
Newton Speedway E.O.C.
Oakland Acres
Prairie City Ambulance, Fire & Police
Reasnor Fire
Sully Fire
Valaria City of

In Lucas County:
Chariton Fire & Police
Derby Fire
Lucas County E 911, Sheriff & Engineer
Lucas Fire
Russell Fire & Police
Williamson Fire

In Mahaska County:
Barnes City Fire
Cedar Township Fire
Fremont Ambulance & City of
Mahaska County Ambulance, E 911 & Sheriff
New Sharon Ambulance, City of, Fire & Police
Oskaloosa Fire & Police
Rose Hill City of

In Marion County:
Bussey Ambulance & Fire
Clay Township Ambulance & Fire
Columbia Fire
Harvey Fire
Indiana Township Fire
Knoxville Fire & Police
Knoxville Township Fire
Marion County Conservation, E 911, Engineer & Sheriff
Melcher Fire
Melcher Dallas Police
Pleasantville Emergency Services & Police

At Pella PSAP:
Pella Ambulance, City of, E 911, Fire & Police

In Monroe County:
Albia City of, Fire, Police & Schools
Lovilia Fire
Melrose Fire
Monroe County E 911, Engineer, Hospital & Sheriff

In Poweshiek County:
Brooklyn Fire & Police
Deep River Fire

East Poweshiek County Ambulance
Grinnell City of, Fire & Police & Regional Medical Center
Guernsey City of
Hartwick Fire
Holiday Lake City of
Lake Ponderosa Community of
Malcom Fire
Montezuma Fire & Ambulance
Poweshiek County E 911, EMA & Sheriff
Searsboro Fire

Once all equipment is reprogrammed or replaced, local disciplines and jurisdictions will be better able to effectively communicate together on existing channels. Once all radios in a county are spectrum efficient, voice communications among the disciplines will be tested by the supplying vendor to ensure ease of use, proper service has been performed, communications are acceptable and long term use is assured.

Siren replacement is for one manufactured pre-1960. This siren has no public address system, no expandability, no technology other than an on/off switch. A new siren and it's technology will take them well into the 21st century. A new siren would include the P.A. capability, remote enable capabilities along with improved design, coverage and sound technology. Once the install is finished, all capabilities will be tested by the vendor. Monthly testing will continue as it does currently through the spring, summer and fall months.

III.A. Baseline – Historical Funding and Request Name

If the Investment has previously been funded or if funding has been requested
(e.g. Homeland Security Grant Program,
Emergency Management Performance Grants,
Infrastructure Protection Program,
Assistance to Firefighter Grants,
and/or Department of Justice grants such as those from the Office of Community Oriented Policing
Services), provide the name of this project and the total amount of funding that was dedicated or
proposed to it, if any. (1,024 Char. Max)

No participant in this grant application has requested or received other grant funding for the
requested investment.

III.B. Baseline – Description of Need

Provide a summary description of the current state of this Investment, its objectives, and any outcomes that will be completed prior to the application of PSIC funds. Reference should also be made to the PSIC objectives addressed by the Investment. (3,000 Char. Max)

No participant has yet appropriated enough funding to pay for anything on their own at 100%. The costs are high and increased funding in large amounts is hard to come by. The counties are not large, the cities are not large and the outlying agencies are mostly volunteer. There has been some consideration and pre-planning done but the bottom line is money; we need funding to help materialize and drive these advancements and the mandate. In all cases some funding of these requests can be done with 911 surcharge funding, however, surcharge income is finite, the PSAP can't request more surcharge money, they can only operate on what is available. In the past loans have been taken out for large purchases or these purchases have had to wait for several years while reserves were built up.

All participants have some funding set aside or planned in the future, however almost none have enough to purchase new systems outright. Volunteer departments have few avenues for increased funding but all participants believe they could move forward if the cost to them is reduced to 20%. If this grant is not awarded, we believe volunteer fire and ems departments in particular will be hard pressed to meet the mandate before the deadline, however agencies that interoperate with volunteer departments need to meet spectrum efficiency right along with them to achieve orderly communication.

The need for base radio is high. Major components were manufactured before 1990. The base is very near the end of it's life-cycle and technology-wise, an antique. They have been planning on replacement but funding is a hurdle, they're very expensive. Replacement parts can also be a challenge. A new base would last 15-20 years and virtually assure the agency has the ability to adapt and operate far into the future. If the grant is not awarded, Mahaska County will either need a loan, try to find a different grant or wait a few more years to build reserves to purchase at 100% on it's own.

The objective is to acquire enough funding to enable the agencies to move forward now with spectrum efficiency and technology acquisition to meet mandates and interoperability enhancements while grant money is available to supplement their 20% match. This grant is an exceptional opportunity because of the allowed in-kind credits and 80% match.

III.C. Baseline – Description of Governance Structure and Activities

Provide a summary description of the current state of your governance structure and activities. (2,500 Char. Max)

SEE ATTACHMENT #1--This is a timeline and details on how the CIIIP came to be.

After the participant group was formed, the grant writers informed counties that a structure of governance would have to be formed also. To meet that need, it was decided several people would have to volunteer to carry out the responsibilities and also create Memorandums of Understanding. The most prudent structure would be to appoint a PSIC Grant Administrator, one person to oversee the whole investment. Also needed was coordinators from each county and the Pella PSAP. These coordinators would be the link between the administrator and the local agency expending the funds. We required that each volunteer be a local government employee or a 28E employee directly involved with implementation of the grant and in public safety.

SEE ATTACHMENTS #2-9--Signature sheets for the MOU from each County/PSAP Project Coordinator.

SEE ATTACHMENT #10--The Memorandum of Understanding.

Each tier of people will work together to see the grant through from beginning to end. If the Administrator needs information, problems addressed, questions answered, that person will approach the County/PSAP Coordinator. The County/PSAP Coordinator will then approach the agency expending funds for the responses then pass them back to the Administrator.

SEE ATTACHMENT #11--Governance Structure and Geographic Area of Participants.

III.D. Baseline – Stakeholder Involvement

Provide information on the public safety agencies involved in the Investment Justification Process.
(1,024 Char. Max)

In Davis County:

        Bloomfield Fire & Police
        Davis County Sheriff, E 911 & Hospital
        Drakesville Fire
        Floris Fire
        Pulaski Fire

In Jasper County:

        Baxter Ambulance, Fire & Police
        IRA City of
        Jasper County E 911 & Sheriff
        Kellogg City of, Fire & Police
        Killduff City of
        Lynnville Fire
        Mingo Fire
        Monroe Fire & Police
        Newton Fire, Police, Hazmat & E.O.C.
        Newton Skiff Medical Center
        Newton Speedway E.O.C.
        Oakland Acres
        Prairie City Ambulance, Fire & Police
        Reasnor Fire
        Sully Fire
        Valaria City of

In Lucas County:

        Chariton Fire & Police
        Derby Fire
        Lucas County E 911, Sheriff & Engineer
        Lucas Fire
        Russell Fire & Police
        Williamson Fire

In Mahaska County:

        Barnes City Fire
        Cedar Township Fire
        Fremont Ambulance & City of
        Mahaska County Ambulance, E 911 & Sheriff
        New Sharon Ambulance, City of, Fire & Police
        Oskaloosa Fire & Police
        Rose Hill City of

In Marion County:

        Bussey Ambulance & Fire
        Clay Township Ambulance & Fire
        Columbia Fire
        Harvey Fire
        Indiana Township Fire
        Knoxville Fire & Police
        Knoxville Township Fire
        Marion County Conservation, E 911, Engineer & Sheriff

Melcher Fire
Melcher Dallas Police
Pleasantville Emergency Services & Police

At Pella PSAP:
Pella Ambulance, City of, E 911, Fire & Police

In Monroe County:
Albia City of, Fire, Police & Schools
Lovilia Fire
Melrose Fire
Monroe County E 911, Engineer, Hospital & Sheriff

In Poweshiek County:
Brooklyn Fire & Police
Deep River Fire
East Poweshiek County Ambulance
Grinnell City of, Fire & Police & Regional Medical Center
Guernsey City of
Hartwick Fire
Holiday Lake City of
Lake Ponderosa Community of
Malcom Fire
Montezuma Fire & Ambulance
Poweshiek County E 911, EMA & Sheriff
Searsboro Fire

The relationship of these counties, agencies and PSAPs are three-fold. For the most part, we have a lot of the same equipment and, in regional or localized emergencies we have worked closely together before. Response areas for fire, 1st responders and EMS overlap into each other's county and we routinely communicate across county lines to coordinate response.

We've moved forward with cooperation from all, regular calls, conference calls, by fax and email and a kind of central clearing house of information--the volunteer grant writing group. We have exchanged a lot of information that enabled the grant application to materialize and see no major hurdles to getting input, discussion or decision if the grant is awarded.

IV.A. Strategy – Statewide Communications Interoperability Plan Objectives

Explain how this Investment supports the Iowa Statewide Communications Interoperability Plan PSIC criteria. The plan can be found online at http://www.dps.state.ia.us/ISP/Interoperability/pdfs/IowaSCIP_033108_v01.pdf (2,250 Char. Max)

One important goal is to improve interoperability, another is to do no harm. We believe all requests tied together meets those objectives. We aren't asking to reinvent the wheel. This application recognizes the existing VHF network as an important component to interoperability but the goal is to enhance it, not scrap it. This application does that.

If awarded, this application assures spectrum efficiency across a myriad of disciplines in public safety, both traditional and non-traditional. The Interop Board could virtually add these agencies to the list of entities that are moving forward to meet the mandate, acquiring new technology to meet the future and could work together again if called upon to accomplish the communication needs of the people we serve.

Agencies are paying attention to what the state is recommending for new technologies. Since new interoperability requires state-wide coordination, the local agencies are using very little resources to research and develop new technologies on their own. One of those technologies is the new IP Gateway for communications. Purchasing the IP Gateways will fit in with the Iowa Interoperability Plan to enable PSAPS and agencies to communicate across different platforms and technologies.

Prevent Communication Problems--Replace old equipment before it fails, move ahead in an orderly fashion, work together before bad things happen, do exercises and keep the flow of information moving.

Protect The Public--Maintain what you have, maintain what you receive, a joint effort benefits everyone, plan for the worst, hope for the best, cover your bases, be ready for anything, train.

Respond--Take advantage of grant opportunities to ease budget concerns, be ready to be called upon when a catastrophe strikes locally or with your neighbor, take interest to bring a large number of like agencies to the same level of technology, try to encompass all that could help or respond for disaster.

Recover--Have redundant and back-up systems, plan ahead, critique gaps, move forward, don't delay.

We believe this is what our application demonstrates to fit in with the Iowa Statewide Communications Interoperability Plan

IV.B. Strategy – Technology <u>Priorities</u>

Explain how this Investment supports the PSIC technology objectives. (2,250 Char. Max)
- Adopt advanced technological solutions
- Improve spectrum efficiency

The F.C.C. is mandating spectrum efficiency. Our application addresses this issue from top to bottom with the agency participants. Reprogramming or replacing the radios assures this mandate is met.

Expandability, ease of use, and potential to encompass any technology in the next few years, that is what the new base radio system will bring.

The IP Gateway is a leap forward in technology. Voice communication crossing the Internet has occurred for years but now a public safety application has come to the forefront. The IP Gateways are;
1) Easily expandable with new control points that can be added later such as non-traditional public safety agencies;
2) Virtually any connectivity the state requires in the future can be managed;
3) Allows remote access to the communications network locally or county-wide.

Looking to the future it can provide control for any future P25 radio network and is fully expandable, controlled at local level or remotely via secure VPN Internet connection. With the IP gateway, connectivity to virtually any like network will be possible with voice radio communications.

IV.C. Strategy – All Hazards Mitigation Priorities

Explain how this Investment supports the PSIC all hazards priorities. (2,250 Char. Max)

Award and implementation of this grant will improve communications in areas of high risk for natural disasters. In the last 18 months, the grant applicants participated in three Presidential Disaster Declarations. These disasters involve wind, snow, ice, and flooding impacting public and private property.

The IP Gateway has capability to be a redundant communications platform for E.O.C.'s. It allows unheard of interoperability. With an Internet connection, a laptop and the proper software, an Incident Commander (I.C.) can communicate by voice with other I.C.'s, other agencies or with other E.O.C.'s directly. More direct communication will enhance and speed decision making allowing Agency A to speak to Agency D without going through Agency B or C.

Replacement of the storm siren at Fremont would prove another useful tool to lessen injuries and loss of life. The old siren, which is not dependable due to age and simply needs replaced.

All equipment and services requested in this grant will be used extensively during times of natural and man-made disasters and will be fully exercised to get the full benefit of the new technology.

If this grant is awarded, each PSAP will gain new communication capability which is truly interoperable and will give them greater and more direct access to resources, mutual aid and enhance response time in deploying emergency services.

V.A. Funding Plan

Detail the total estimated cost for the Investment throughout the PSIC period of performance (FY 2007 – FY 2010). Describe any other concurrent funding sources that may also support this Investment, including form of cost share. Detailed estimated expenditure plan which credibly demonstrates ability to meet expenditure deadline of September 30, 2010.

	PSIC Federal Funds Requested	Non-Federal Matching Fund Amount	Total Investment
Acquisition	$1,754,752.00	$438,688.00	$2,193,440.00
Deployment	$426,224.00	$105,556.00	$532,780.00
Training	$159,360.00		$159,360.00
Planning/Coord.	$96,000.00		$96,000.00
Total	2,436,336.00	$545,244.00	*$2,981,580.00

* - Total investment includes the Non-Federal Match and Total PSIC Federal Funds Requested.
A minimum 20% match is required for all Acquisition and Deployment funds.

The 20% match from the participants will utilize several areas of funding which will include but not be limited to; 911 surcharge, county general fund, city or township assessments, special requests, and existing equipment budgets. Some participants will be utilizing the in-kind credit or contribution to some extent. In formulation of the CIIP, each participant was continually reminded, DO NOT apply unless you can match the 20%. Each participant has assured the Governance they have their 20% match.

The end of the grant period is far in the future. Agencies have three budget years to manage their 20% match;
Fiscal 08-09   July 1, 2008----June 30, 2009
Fiscal 09-10   July 1, 2009----June 30, 2010
Fiscal 10-11   July 1, 2010----September 30, 2010

This is a part of this grant that makes it extremely easy on the budget and therefore easier to manage and implement.

ATTACHMENT #12--Communications Equipment Cost Details, Page 1 of 2 and 2 of 2

V.B. Matching Plan

How does your Investment meet the non-Federal cash or in-kind matching requirement? Please itemize both the funding category and amount in the table below. Please provide detail explanations for match type. (1,000 Char. Max)

Non-Federal Matching Fund Category	Non-Federal Matching Fund Amount
Cash - State	$0.00
Cash - Local/Tribal	$550,000.00
Cash - Non-governmental	$0.00
In-Kind - Donated volunteer services	$24,000.00
In-Kind - Donated salaries	$57,160.00
In-Kind - Donated equipment	$1,000.00
In-Kind - Donated property	$8,000.00
In-Kind - Indirect costs	$6,100.00
Other*	$1,000.00
Total	**$647,260**

In-Kind - Donated salaries

Managing Governance	$20,800.00
Managing Local Agency	$14,000.00
Staff Training of Equipment	$10,240.00
Develop Policies & Procedures	$1,600.00
Equipment Testing	$10,520.00

in-Kind - Indirect costs

Long distance phone calls	$100.00
Transport of equipment	$1,000.00
Site Prep	$5,000.00

In-Kind - Donated equipment

Cables, power cords, misc.	$1,000

VI. Milestones

Provide specific milestones for the Investment over the PSIC period of performance (FY 2007 – FY 2010), including a description, and start and end dates for each milestone; up to 10 milestones may be provided. (850 Char. max per milestone)

Milestone #1--Agencies will research which vendors can supply their equipment/service and decide which vendors can accomplish that. They will request the vendor to examine their needs for spectrum efficiency, base radio replacement, IP Gateway acquisition or other hazard mitigation equipment/service in preparation for an invitation to submit a quote.
        Start Date: As soon as grant is awarded
        End Date: October 1, 2008

Milestone #2--Invitation to vendors to quote requested purchases.
        Start Date: October 1, 2008
        End Date: January 1, 2009

Milestone #3--Quote investigation and decision of vendor to hire. Quotes will be examined by the participants looking for capable expertise, professionalism, quality of service, completeness/accuracy of quote, ability to deliver services/equipment in a timely manner and cost effectiveness. Vendors meeting these guidelines will be selected as vendor providers.
        Start Date: January 1, 2009
        End Date: March 1, 2009

Milestone #4--Ordering and acquisition of new equipment. Equipment/services will be ordered.
        Start Date: January 1, 2009
        End Date: June 1, 2009

Milestone #4--Installation and testing.
        Start Date: June 1, 2009
        End Date: July 1, 2010

Milestone #5--Payment of services rendered. Some agencies may elect to spread out the required 20% match into two budgets. They might elect to make an agreement with their vendor that would allow them to pay a portion of their 20% by June 30, 2009 and pay any remaining costs after July 1, 2009. A small number of agencies may decide to make final payments in a 3rd budget year that begins July 1, 2010 which is still within grant guidelines.
        Start Date: June 30, 2009
        End Date: July 1, 2010

Milestone #6--Place equipment online. Final installations and placing equipment on-line for active duty will occur.
        Start Date: January 1, 2009
        End Date: July 1, 2010

Milestone #7--Simple exercise with all participants to test communication improvements provided by this grant funding.
        Start Date: July 1, 2010
        End Date: September 30, 2010

These are all the major milestones for each agency to meet. All milestones could be accomplished earlier at their option based upon coordination and their own needs.

VII. Project Management

Describe the management team that is directly responsible for the implementation of this Investment. Specifically, describe any key Investment roles and responsibilities, structures, and subject matter expertise required by this Investment, including at least the project manager and the contracts management structure. An organizational chart may be included in the response and should be placed in Section X., Attachments. (3,500 Char. Max)

Our Mission and Underlying Beliefs

Our mission was to develop a comprehensive and effective process that promotes community safety through increased interoperability among public safety agencies to mitigate disasters. To achieve this mission, we assembled a multi-disciplinary, multi-jurisdictional collaborative team that is committed to critically assessing our equipment, operations and the resources we currently utilize throughout our jurisdictions. We also recognized the need in these resource-poor times to prioritize our needs and concentrate our efforts and resources on those areas in need of the most attention and change. The information collected through this critical assessment was used to identify the strengths and gaps in our current capabilities. Finally, we developed an implementation plan that outlines the equipment that will address the prioritized gaps. The participants are committed to developing goals and objectives that, when achieved, will improve our responses for public safety. We are dedicated to developing technologies consistent with emerging national and state recommendations, to address our most critical needs and to monitor and evaluate the implementation of these technologies. As we accomplish the goals and objectives of our implementation plan, we will continue to evaluate and prioritize our other needs and develop new goals and objectives to continue moving towards our overarching goal of increasing interoperability and disaster mitigation.

The Management Team

PSIC Grant Administrator. This person will serve as the primary contact for the Iowa Statewide Interoperable Communications System Board for management of this grant. The participants have agreed that Ed Roach of Jasper County can fill this role. He will be responsible for ensuring the entire grant application and implementation process goes forward smoothly, stays on-track, ensures everything is within guidelines and keeps the Interop Board informed. Ed is serving in this role with assistance from his county auditor, sheriff and 911 service board.

Ed has experience to manage and coordinate this grant. He started as dispatcher for Adams County Iowa in 1971, moved to dispatch at Jasper County in August of 1972 then became Dispatch Supervisor in 1980. He currently serves as 911 director and has done so since 1991. He manages a current 911/communications budget of $979,460. He manages 10 other employees besides himself. He has a solid and professional working relationship with peers in the area and within other departments in his operating jurisdiction.

County/PSAP Project Manager. Each county, and in one case, a second PSAP in Marion County, has appointed a County/PSAP Project Manager. These people will serve as the primary contact for Ed Roach. Each Project Manager will be the liaison between the local agencies carrying out the grant objectives, making purchases and installing equipment. All Project Managers are currently local government employees that are playing a key role in implementation of grant purchases either in a supervisory position or subordinate position with supervisory support.

Agency Administrator or Supervisor. Each participating agency has an administrator or supervisor. These people will manage the grant by participating in the milestones for acquisition, installation, testing, training and implementation.

Our Team Structure

To accomplish these tasks, each team member will actively participate in the grant management effort. All team members have a voice. We have developed two avenues of communication for all team members, conference calls and email. Face-to-face meetings can be, and have been, called when appropriate. When needed for issues of coordination, acquisition or implementation, these avenues will be utilized. Each team member will have the opportunity to express their opinion and present information that is pertinent to the discussion at hand. Local agencies needing assistance for decisions can consult with their County/PSAP manager or the grant administrator as a joint effort to ensure these decisions are in line with concepts, allowed guidelines of the grant and implementation milestones.

The members of the team have policy-making responsibilities in the agencies they represent to ensure we have productive conversations about real systemic change that will enhance our ability to achieve our vision of increasing interoperability and community safety well beyond the grant period.

VIII. Investment Challenges

List and describe up to five potential challenges to effective implementation of this Investment over the entire PSIC period of performance. For each identified challenge, provide a brief description of how the challenge will be mitigated, and indicate a probability of occurrence (high, medium, low), and level of impact should it occur (high, medium, low). Applicants should consider the Investment's technical feasibility as a possible investment challenge.

     Challenge (300 Char. Max)   Probability/Impact
     Mitigation Strategy (1,000 Char. Max)

1. CHALLENGE--The 20% funding match
While all participants report they have at least the 20% match, there is still slight potential for them to loose that funding because of unforeseen events. As always, carrying out the mission of public safety can be monetarily unclear; budget cuts, a downturn in the local economy or unforeseen expenditures of resources for a disaster can occur in the years ahead. We would like to be able to guarantee the 20% will be there as late as September 30, 2010 but no one can predict circumstances will remain static through the grant period. Public safety must carry out their mission regardless of funding shortfalls. If there is a loss of funding, equipment is usually first on the chopping block.
MITIGATION STRATEGY--Given the possibility any agency could potentially use 3 budget years to meet their 20% match, we feel the probability of occurring is low. We anticipate any problem will emerge slowly giving the agency time to react. To mitigate a shortfall, agencies will be asked to work with their vendor for a payment plan, encourage use of a low interest loan or possibly appealing to the public for donations. If this will occur, we anticipate it will probably occur with very small or volunteer agencies and not involve great amounts of money. Major expenditures will be for the base radio system or the IP Gateways and these PSAPS know they clearly have the money now. We have continually stressed to the agencies applying, YOU MUST have the 20% or don't apply.
Probability-Low
Impact-Low

2. CHALLENGE--Spectrum efficiency mis-match among local agencies
Communication between radios that have met the spectrum efficiency mandate and those that haven't will have audio problems. Not all participants will be able to meet the mandate at the same instant leaving radio communications hampered until the project is complete.
MITIGATION STRATEGY--Requests will be polled with requests for a timetable to convert. This will be coordinated with the vendor(s). A calendar of implementation will then be drawn up asking the agencies to adhere to the spectrum efficiency calendar to ensure as smoother, quicker, more efficient transition to local spectrum efficiency. If the grant is awarded or not, we will still encounter this same problem.
Probability-High
Impact-Medium

3. CHALLENGE--Spectrum efficiency mis-match between local agencies and state agencies
The same problem outlined in #2 will occur on the mutual use channels such as Mutual Aid, LEA, and any other frequencies used by local agencies to communicate with state agencies.
MITIGATION STRATEGY--Spectrum efficiency on local frequencies for the local agencies will move forward according to our timetable. Spectrum efficiency on the mutual use channels will be delayed until information is received indicating the state's timetable for transition. When that is established, the vendor then completes the mandate for these particular frequencies as close as possible to the state's schedule. If the grant is awarded or not, we will still encounter this same problem. The grant will ensure a more orderly transition.
Probability--High
Impact--Medium

4. CHALLENGE--Logistics of managing this grant
Because of the magnitude of funds requested, number of agencies participating, various items of equipment requested, and because contact with volunteer departments is not immediate, a slow down of information flow will occur.
MITIGATION STRATEGY--The grant administrator will be charged with responsibility to coordinate funds received, funds dispersal, grant adherence and project follow-up. The CIIIP participants have undertaken extraordinary measures to ensure the flow of information during this application process and will continue to do so during implementation.
Probability--Low
Impact--Low

5. CHALLENGE--Training and use of new equipment
Proper operation of any new equipment can be a challenge for the operators.
MITIGATION STRATEGY--Vendors will be required to completely train staffing for equipment use. Old equipment should not be taken out of service until operators gain enough knowledge to operate it properly under extreme situations. Practice and repetitiveness as a training standard should be adopted by the agencies receiving awards.
Probability--High
Impact--Medium

IX.A. Impact – Outcomes

Describe the outcome(s) that will indicate that this Investment is successful throughout the PSIC period of performance (FY 2007 – FY 2010). The description should include compelling reasons why the Investment will make a difference in the communications capabilities of its stakeholders. Note: Must address how the outcomes will be evaluated. (4,000 Char. Max)

MONEY--Better communications, it simply takes money. Funding support will mean our participants will be able to acquire new technology with only 20%, not 100%. It will allow the participants to put funding worries aside for these particular services/equipment. If there is no grant award, participants will still have to devote funding resources for mandates and any interoperability improvement at all. Volunteer agencies will be under considerably less stress to fully fund what they are requesting.

PROGRESS--New technology will set us up for the future. As new innovations roll out in the coming years we should be poised to take advantage to improve any communication situation. The new equipment allows adaptability, expansion, better maintenance, cheaper maintenance, less time spent on maintenance and more flexibility with more options to build out.

REDUNDANCY--A back-up system is vital to any communication link. The IP Gateway has the capability to back-up the E.O.C. communications, county to county communication, local to state agencies, and for the future, who knows exactly what could be available next year. A new base radio will simply help the dispatchers do more and concentrate the on the task at hand.

MAINTENANCE--Requests to replace any equipment is justified as the existing equipment is too old. Old means an increased potential for failure. Repair issues surface as manufacturers leave the old and move to maintaining the new. The IP Gateway can be easily supplemented typically with off the shelf replacement.

PUBLIC SAFETY--These requests are focused toward mission critical enhancements. If awarded the improvements will serve two purposes;

1) Enhance public safety by allowing local decision makers to communicate with state and federal assistance agencies more easily, quicker and with less intervention and links. Participants expect to talk more easily from small agency to the decision makers in a disaster making for quicker responses to major incidents.

2) We must not forget the emergency responders. Upgrading communications allow them to more easily deal with the emergency at hand. Under the VHF network communications is almost an afterthought. We can take what we have, link it out to other communication capabilities and still not loose anything from what has worked for many, many years. Still, looking forward, the VHF has limitations. Technology advances along, these participants would like to keep some pace.

A preparedness exercise to test communications will be undertaken to test out the new equipment and evaluate it' capabilities. Evaluation will be from each beneficiary of the funding with vendor participation and support.

IX.B. Impact - Cost-Effective Measures

Describe the cost-effective measures that will indicate that this Investment is successful throughout the PSIC period of performance (FY 2007 – FY 2010). (4,000 Char. Max)

1) Our multi-jurisdictional, multi-disciplinary approach provides the most cost effective, efficient and resourceful avenue for completion. Because of the scope and magnitude of this investment, the volume of equipment and services needed and the multiple purchases of the same equipment, prior cost investigation has already shown we should receive a volume discount should vendors be kept to a minimum.

2) Now is the time for spectrum efficiency rather than wait until the deadline draws near. If spectrum efficiency is to be done with current or future budgets at 100% our cost, the future seems unclear as the economy slows, the dollar looses value abroad (electronics made overseas will cost more) and the uncertainty that tax based budgets may not be able to be increased. Taking that uncertainty into account, this exceptional grant opportunity is ideal to carry all traditional and non-traditional agencies forward. By meeting the mandate before it's due, vendors won't be tempted to raise prices as the deadline draws near.

3) Replacing old equipment is almost always more cost effective than maintaining the old. New technology is always driven by several axioms; make the new easier, faster, better.

4) There are no "Cadillacs" in this application. Everything is pretty much nuts and bolts with no bells or whistles. Agencies must provide 20%, that amount is still at a high enough threshold for the agency to not spend frivolously. Again we are small agencies with small budgets and are used to making the dollar go further.

5) The two options to accomplish spectrum efficiency are: A) Reprogram radios currently in use, or B) purchase new radios because the old ones are obsolete. In the last few years, some agencies have already been replacing radios on their own that are compliant (can be reprogrammed) and therefore do not need replaced. In the grant, 446 pieces of radio equipment will have to be touched by the vendors, either to replace or reprogram. Thirty five percent of these radios can be reprogrammed. Reprogramming capable equipment is most cost effective than replacement. Reprogrammed radios still meet the mandate with no problem.

6) Instead of replacing all radio equipment at high cost and moving to a completely new platform or network for radio communication and literally dumping the existing VHF communication network, we're choosing to purchase equipment that will bridge the communication gap between our current VHF network and new technologies available now or in the future. We'll keep what's good from the old but create a link to the new technology.

And finally, the final evaluation will be at grant end, with the measures taken above, the hope of all participants is to come in under budget.

IX.C. Impact - Sustainability

Describe the long-term approach to sustaining this Investment. (4,000 Char. Max)

Sustaining the spectrum efficiency will be seamless. Existing maintenance budgets already encompass this equipment. Replaced radios will have new warranties which reduces maintenance costs somewhat. As the normal life-cycle of any new or reprogrammed radio expires well into the future, regular operating budgets will have to be used for replacement. For most agencies, they are not increasing their total count of radios but converting existing ones or replacing the noncompliant ones.

Any new maintenance costs with a new base will absorbed by the participant. Again current repair funding should be sufficient, however, repair costs should decrease slightly as with any new equipment. A base radio is mission critical and it will be sustained period, there is no other option.

Sustainability to the IP Gateway involves such equipment as a personal computer, network wiring, switch(s) and a router-almost all equipment that could be easily replaced locally from a business like Walmart. Internally and externally the network and Internet connection will be maintained as they are currently for each PSAP. Routine maintenance for audio sources, signaling, and programming detail are easily done by the vendor. Basically for any PSAP participant, these items are nothing new, nothing that hasn't been dealt with in the past and any hurdles should be easily overcome. This technology mirrors nearly what each of us have at home now, a personal computer, the Internet and the phone line.

Sustaining the public warning siren replacements will be seamless. Existing maintenance budgets already encompass this equipment. Replaced public warning sirens will have new warranties which reduces maintenance costs somewhat. As the normal life-cycle of the sirens expire well into the future, regular operating budgets will be used for replacement.

Not many applicants have participated in this large of a grant or have had to cooperate and communicate together to this extent in an effort to achieve success. It has been a valuable experience for all. Large grant groups such as ours can be problematic but we think we have overcome those as far as logistics, communication and cooperation. A grant award would be greatly appreciated and the equipment awarded would become a valued asset for each agency.

THANK YOU for this opportunity.

X. - Attachment(s)

ATTACHMENT #1--How the CIIIP came to be.
(Attachments #2-9 are signatures for the MOU from each County/PSAP Project Coordinator)
ATTACHMENT #2--DAVIS COUNTY/Kraig Scott/kscott@netins.net
ATTACHMENT #3--JASPER COUNTY/Ed Roach/edroach@jaspersheriff.org
ATTACHMENT #4--LUCAS COUNTY/Jeff Richards/lcso_psapmgr@hotmail.com
ATTACHMENT #5--MAHASKA COUNTY/Randy Frazier/e911@mahaskacounty.org
ATTACHMENT #6--MARION COUNTY/Martha Dykstra/mdykstra@co.marion.ia.us
ATTACHMENT #7--PELLA PD/Michael Marcinkowski & Marcia Slycord
ATTACHMENT #8--MONROE COUNTY/Pam Freshwater/pfreshwater@monroecoia.us
ATTACHMENT #9--POWESHIEK COUNTY/Thomas Sheets/Karen Meek
ATTACHMENT #10--Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)
ATTACHMENT #11--Governance Structure and Geographic Area of Participants
ATTACHMENT #12--Communications Equipment Cost Details, Page 1 of 2 and 2 of 2

Memorandum of Understanding

Between the Agencies Participating in the Central Iowa
Interoperable Improvement Project (CIIIP)

This document establishes a relationship between all participating counties for the services of management, administration and implementation of this PSIC grant application.

WHEREAS, as part of the CIIIP the undersigned participated in a joint grant application submitted to the Iowa Statewide Interoperable Communications System Board; and

WHEREAS, the grant request has identified equipment and services that would greatly improve public safety communication interoperability within each county and throughout the area; and

WHEREAS, each agency in the CIIP is responsible for providing at a minimum the 20% grant match based upon the specific requests. In return each agency will receive communication equipment and services to enhance interoperability both locally and area-wide; and

WHEREAS, these agencies will succeed only as a result of effective partnerships and collaboration among all participants to reduce waste and duplication of effort;

NOW THEREFORE, the UNDERSIGNED,

AGREES, the participants in the CIIIP have approved of Ed Roach to serve as the PSIC Grant Administrator for the overall grant to serve as liaison between the Iowa Statewide Interoperable Communications System Board and County/PSAP Project Coordinator; and

AGREES that CIIIP participants will appoint a County/PSAP Project Coordinator to serve as liaison between the PSIC Grant Administrator and the individual Agency Head or Chief; and

AGREES that if distribution of the grant funds in the form of equipment and services does not occur and the grant is not completed because of the lack of financial participation or unforeseen events, that this Memorandum of Understanding shall be null and void; and

AGREES, wherever possible, to work together to achieve group discount pricing on like equipment/services from the supplying vendors; and

AGREES each agency shall implement the project in good faith and shall take all necessary steps to see the project through expeditiously according to the application; and

AGREES to abide by the grant requirements; and

AGREES to supply any detailed and definitive information required by the Iowa Statewide Interoperable Communications System Board to continue participation in the grant program; and.

AGREES the services performed by the PSIC Grant Administrator, the County Project Coordinator and the grant writing committee are at no cost to the individual agency. Any credit for these services rendered might be awarded as in-kind credited towards the agency's 20% match.

This Memorandum of Understanding shall be valid up to the end of the PSIC Grant implementation deadline of September 20, 2010, and all parties hereto shall then be free thereafter from their obligations herein written.

By your signature, you;
1) Have agreed to the terms of this Memorandum of Understanding; and
2) Have agreed to serve as County/PSAP Coordinator; and
3) Have the authority to enter into this agreement; and
4) Have the authority to make the required decisions on implementation of this grant.

_____   _____

Signed Name   Date

_____

Printed Name

_____

Agency

ATTACHMENT #1, PSIC Grant Application August 22, 2008

How the CIIIP came to be.

All occurrences in 2008;

July 17	Ed Roach receives information about the grant.
July 18	Ed contacted Randy Frazier by phone, should we form a group to apply? Yes.
July 22	Vendor contacted and agreed to supply technical information.
July 23	Invitation letter sent to Marion, Tama, Monroe, Lucas, Appanoose, Davis, Madison, Keokuk, Washington, Wapello and Poweshiek. Other counties could still be added, it's 80/20, it might fund law, fire, EMS, med, conservation, schools, health and road maintenance; any local government agency that needs to be interoperable. Many local agencies within each county also invited to participate in the call.
July 24	Conference call. Everyone needs to start on equipment inventories. Once done, get lists to your vendor for pricing. Anyone that missed the conference call was offered a CD copy of it. Several were delivered.
July 30	Update letter sent to all potential participants, established deadlines. Asked for grant writing volunteers from the interested agencies.
August 4	Deadline for anyone interested, needs their infomation compiled on what equipment or services they will request.
August 5	Second conference call. Everyone brought up-to-date, detailed questions answered, equipment options evaluated. Grant writing group formed.
August 6	First grant writing meeting at Jasper County EMA Office.
August 19	AM, second grant writing meeting at Jasper County EMA Office.
August 19	PM, third conference call to answer any final questions, tie up loose ends before the grant deadline.
August 21	Grant application to be finished.
August 22	Proofing of the grant application.
August 22	Submit grant application in person.